In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 15 as follows. In accordance with the Revised Format of Amendments, the status of all of the claims is set forth below.

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1.   (Currently Amended) A node comprising first, second, and third layers, <u>said first layer being the lowest layer in layering, said second layer being higher than said first layer and lower than said third layer in said layering,</u> wherein:

a packet is mapped in said first layer;

said first layer judging whether the packet is to be dropped at said node or to be hopped to a next node;

said first layer transmitting the packet to said third layer through said second layer when said first layer judges that the packet is to be dropped at said node.

2.   (Original) A node as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first layer transmits, when said first layer judges that the packet is to be hopped to said next node, the packet to said next node by making the packet cut through said first layer.

3-14 (Canceled)

15.   (Currently Amended) A transmission method carried out in a node comprising first, second, and third layers, <u>said first layer being the lowest layer in layering, said second layer being higher than said first layer and lower than said third layer in said layering,</u> comprising the steps of:

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judging, in said first layer where a packet is mapped, whether said packet is to be dropped at said node or to be hopped to a next node; and

transmitting in said first layer the packet to said third layer through said second layer when said first layer judges that the packet is to be dropped at said node.

16.   (Original) A transmission method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the step of:

transmitting in said first layer, when said first layer judges that the packet is to be hopped to said next node, the packet to said next node by making the packet cut through said first layer.

17-28. (Canceled)